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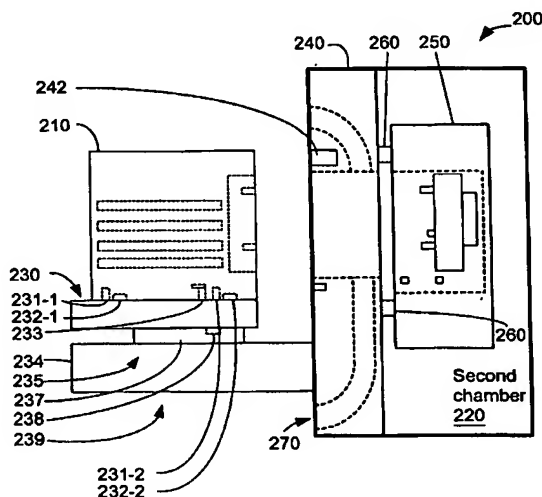
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(54) Title: **LOADPORT APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR USE THEREOF**



(57) Abstract: A loadport apparatus for conditioning the interior of a FOUF having a FOUF door. The apparatus includes platform, a housing, an loadport door, a loadport door seal and a conditioning system. The FOUF platform receives the FOUF. The housing includes an opening to a second chamber. The housing is configured for sealably engaging the FOUF. The loadport door includes a FOUF door access mechanism for opening the FOUF. The loadport door is movable between an open position and a closed position. The loadport door seal selectively seals the opening from the second chamber when the loadport door is in the closed position. The conditioning system communications with the opening for conditioning a mini-environment chamber defined by the loadport door, the seal, the opening, and an interior of the FOUF when the loadport door is in the closed position, the loadport door seal is sealed, and the FOUF door is open. A method is also disclosed.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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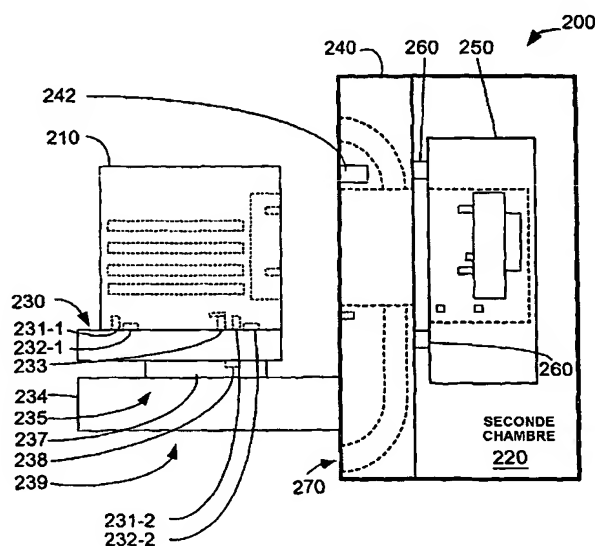
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(57) Abstract: A loadport apparatus for conditioning the interior of a FOUNDRY OPENING UNIT (FOUP) having a FOUNDRY OPENING UNIT (FOUP) door. The apparatus includes platform, a housing, an loadport door, a loadport door seal and a conditioning system. The FOUNDRY OPENING UNIT (FOUP) platform receives the FOUNDRY OPENING UNIT (FOUP). The housing includes an opening to a second chamber. The housing is configured for sealably engaging the FOUNDRY OPENING UNIT (FOUP). The loadport door includes a FOUNDRY OPENING UNIT (FOUP) door access mechanism for opening the FOUNDRY OPENING UNIT (FOUP). The loadport door is movable between an open position and a closed position. The loadport door seal selectively seals the opening from the second chamber when the loadport door is in the closed position. The conditioning system communicates with the opening for conditioning a mini-environment chamber defined by the loadport door, the seal, the opening, and an interior of the FOUNDRY OPENING UNIT (FOUP) when the loadport door is in the closed position, the loadport door seal is sealed, and the FOUNDRY OPENING UNIT (FOUP) door is open. A method is also disclosed.



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